

8 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR Director, NPIC

SUBJECT: Special Clearances

In regard to our recent discussions concerning more formal procedures and timing for disclosure of collection system information to appropriate product exploitation personnel, General Carroll and I have agreed to the following procedure for all such action within the Department of Defense. General Carroll has established a small Special Activities Office within the Defense Intelligence Agency. We have briefed four people of this office on the collection projects of the National Reconnaissance Program, and will keep them currently informed on these projects. They will screen all requests from all Services and Agencies of the Department of Defense for operational clearances and information. As a result of this screening, the Director of DIA will forward his recommendations to the Director of the NRO for final decision.

I suggest that you consider a similar procedure for the NPIC, whereby the NRO would brief and keep current one or two of your people. They would then determine the NPIC needs for specific clearances, and information on collection projects, the specific NPIC personnel who need the information and the desired timing of this disclosure. The Director of NPIC would then forward his recommendations directly to the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office for final decision. This procedure would apply to all NPIC personnel, including Department of Defense personnel assigned to NPIC for NPIC work. (Any requirement for Defense personnel who work at NPIC on Defense, rather than NPIC tasks, would be handled by the appropriate Service through the DIA.)

As you know, the collection program is extremely sensitive, and it is obvious that collection projects cannot be disclosed as widely or as early as many would prefer. It will therefore be essential that your screening be most rigorous and specific. Many people who do require exploitation clearances want but do not actually require operational clearances. Among those who do require them, I would expect that

NRO review(s)
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very few would require this information on all, or even many, of the projects in the National Reconnaissance Program. It should be possible to provide specific information to enable certain people to carry out their required tasks associated with these projects without the necessity of providing an operational clearance or full project briefing. In these cases your cleared people would prepare the necessary information in conjunction with the NRO staff, and we would agree in each case prior to the disclosure of the information. By careful selection of personnel who determine the NPIC needs, and by requiring those who do receive the information to be fully qualified and responsible for taking authoritative action on the basis of their being briefed, I believe that we can fully meet all actual requirements within the stringent security restrictions that are necessary.

I would appreciate your comments and nominations of specific people if you concur. In this and all other matters of the National Reconnaissance Program, please deal directly with the NRO.

Signed

Joseph V. Charyk
Under Secretary of the Air Force

cc: ~~DDR~~/CIA
Director, DIA

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